

Question

Question

DEVELOPMENT OF HALDIA-FARAKKA STRETCH OF GANGA

1371. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government so far, for the development of Haldia-Farakka stretch of Ganga (National Inland Waterways) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : The Inland Waterways Authority of India is taking necessary measures every year for the development and maintenance of navigable channel of minimum depth of 1.5 to 2.0 metres and width 45 metres by dredging and bandalling in critical stretches of the waterway from Haldia to Farakka. Channel marks are provided during the low water season for the guidance of vessels along the navigation channel. Terminal facilities have been provided at Haldia, Calcutta, Berhampur, Pakur and Farakka.

[Translation]

FACILITIES TO DEPENDENTS OF OFFICERS DYING IN HARNESS

1372. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities provided to the dependents of those officers/employees of Army who die in harness;

(b) whether there is any provision to provide suitable employment to the dependent members of the families of the deceased;

(c) if so, the procedure prescribed in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Facilities provided to the dependents of officers and men (Other Ranks) of Army who die in harness include immediate financial assistance, ordinary family pension, gratuity, retention of accommodation for a specified period, canteen and medical facilities.

In case of death in operations, the dependents of such personnel are entitled to normalised family pension equal to last pay drawn and in case of death attributable to military service they are entitled to Special Family Pension. Their children are entitled to educational facilities such as payment of fees, hostel charges etc. War widows are entitled to 75% concession in rail fares for travel in second class and 50% concession in domestic air travel.

Under the Army Group Insurance Scheme (AGI) officers are entitled to a sum of Rs. 3.50 lakhs and JCO/ORs to a sum of Rs. 1.50 lakhs. Certain additional facilities like financial assistance for the marriage of daughter(s), construction/repair of house and interest subsidy on loan for house building are also provided through the Zila Sainik Boards/Rajya Sainik Boards/Kendriya Sainik Board on as required basis, depending on the financial condition of each family. Special vocational training centres have been opened at various places for training the widows and dependents of the deceased personnel with a view to equip them for gainful employment/self-employment. Provision has also been made for imparting various types of training to widows/dependents, alongwith the ex-Servicemen, under the resettlement training schemes for ex-Servicemen conducted by the Zila Sainik Boards/Rajya Sainik Boards.

All the schemes for the self-employment of ex-Servicemen are also open to the widows and dependents of the deceased personnel.

(b) Provisions regarding suitable employment of the dependent members of the families of the deceased personnel are as under :—

(i) Widow upto one dependent can apply for appointment on compassionate grounds.

(ii) In case of the personnel killed in action or where the death is attributable to military service, upto two dependents of the deceased, including war widows, are entitled to Priority-II (a) for the purposes of employment against Group 'C' and 'D' posts

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under the Central Government. In respect of IPKF casualties, as a special dispensation, Government have issued guidelines to various Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings for priority in compassionate appointment, with suitable relaxation to the extent possible, specially regarding criteria for consideration of terminal benefits received, while assessing the need for such appointment.

State Governments have also made various provisions for giving employment assistance to the widows and dependents of the Army personnel who die in harness. Such provisions differ from State to State.

(c) For registration under Priority II (a), the widows/dependents seeking employment assistance are required to apply on prescribed forms to the concerned Record Office which, in turn, forwards these applications to the Directorate General Employment & Training (DGET) and the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR). The responsibility for giving employment in these cases rests with DGET who provides vacancies, out of those referred to by different Departments, before releasing them to the Employment Exchanges.

For compassionate appointments, the applications are processed through the departmental channel, starting with the Commanding Officer of the Unit in which the deceased was last serving.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

STRENGTH OF JUDGES IN PATNA HIGH COURT

1373. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

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(a) the sanctioned strength and the number of judges and additional judges actually in position in the Patna High Court;

(b) the number of cases pending for disposal in the Patna High Court as per the latest available information;

(c) the reasons for unfilled vacancies in the Patna High Court; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take in the matter and when the vacancies are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) As on 29-7-1991, the sanctioned strength of the Patna High Court was 35 permanent Judges. On that date, 29 permanent Judges were in position, leaving 6 vacancies of permanent Judges to be filled up.

(b) As on 13-3-1991, 66,190 cases were pending in the Patna High Court.

(c) and (d) The Chief Justice and the State authorities of Bihar have sent recommendations for filling up available posts of permanent Judges in the Patna High Court. The further process of consultation to fill up these vacancies is on. It is not possible to indicate precisely by when these posts are likely to be filled up.

EXPORT OF RICE AND COFFEE

1374. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of rice and coffee exported during the last six months;

(b) the companies which exported the rice and coffee together with the quantum exported by each company; and

(c) whether the exports were made against payment or barter, the details thereof in each case ?